

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Decision Report**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Communities and International Relations
Date:	14 February 2011
Title:	Funding request from Wickham Parish Council via the Hampshire Action Team for East Central
Reference:	2596
Report From:	Chief Executive

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1. Executive Summary

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to seek approval for funding of £12,500 to Wickham Parish Council for the development of a new village green from the East Central Hampshire Action Team (HAT) Community Budget 2010/11.

2. Contextual information

2.1. The project is to develop a village green at the Bridge Street / School Road junction, a key gateway into the village. The Parish Council has funded the clearing of the land in preparation for the development. This will create an open space with access onto the very well used Meon Valley Trail. The open space will provide a landscaped foreground to the ancient church and help link the church to the village which is separated by the busy A32.

2.2. The open space will include paths, new user friendly steps onto the Meon Valley Trail (wheelchair access is available at the nearby Station Close car park) and seating to allow residents and the many users of the Meon Valley Trail to view the church from the top and bottom of the embankment. Residents of all ages enjoy watching wedding processions from the existing bench on the site. New seating will also provide a welcome rest area for older residents walking to and from The Square.

2.3. Since the area has been cleared it has become a popular place for art groups and visiting schools to view the church so some formal and informal seating will be welcomed by a varied number of people of all ages.

2.4. Wickham's draft Parish Plan and Village Design Statement seek to improve links between the village and church and to enhance open spaces which are

greatly valued by the community. The proposal is fully outlined in the bid form attached as Appendix C.

3. Finance

- 3.1. The total funding allocation for the East Central HAT is £200,000. The amount currently remaining is £114,980.
- 3.2. The amount of funding requested is £12,500 which is the total project cost.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1. The County Council has the power under S56 (2) of the Local Government Act 1958 to contribute towards expenditure incurred by a parish council relating to public open space.

5. Monitoring

- 5.1. The intended outcomes of the project are outlined in the application form accompanying this report.
- 5.2. A detailed monitoring report setting out the final outcomes of the project will be sent out for completion at the end of the project.

6. Other key issues

- 6.1. There are no other key issues associated with this request.

7. Statements of Support

- 7.1. This application has majority support of the East Central HAT.
- 7.2. The Executive Member for Culture and Recreation, Councillor Snaith-Tempia has been consulted and no adverse comments have been received.
- 7.3. Senior officers from the County Council's Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs department have been consulted and are supportive. Officers see this as a good example of a local project which is included in an existing parish plan coming to fruition. It also has a Big Society theme with residents including young people interested in adopting the finished project and volunteering in order to maintain the new site.
- 7.4. Senior officers from the County Council's Environment department have been consulted and are supportive. Officers see this project as a well developed proposal led by the Parish Council with community support. The proposed village green is integral to the Parish Plan and Village Design Statement. Hampshire County Council Environment Department have assisted in the development of the plans and are supportive of the proposals.

8. Recommendation

- 8.1. That the Executive Member for Communities and International Relations approves a sum of £12,500 to Wickham Parish Council for the development of a new village green from the East Central Hampshire Action Team Community Budget 2010/11 only, with no expectation of funding for future years.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**1. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

1.1. There are no adverse impacts arising from this report. The site will be open to all to use and accessibility will be taken into account.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. There are no adverse impacts arising from this report.

3. Climate Change:

3.1. There are no adverse impacts arising from this report. Natural materials will be used where possible eg wooden seating.